



## Complete Summary

### TITLE

Radiology: percentage of final reports for screening mammograms that are classified "probably benign."

### SOURCE(S)

American College of Radiology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, National Committee for Quality Assurance. Radiology physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association, National Committee for Quality Assurance; 2009 Feb. 42 p.

## Measure Domain

### PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

### SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

## Brief Abstract

### DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of final reports for screening mammograms that are classified as "probably benign."

**Note:** For performance, a lower percentage, with a definitional target approaching 0%, indicates appropriate assessment of screening mammograms (e.g., the proportion of screening mammograms that are classified as "probably benign."

### RATIONALE

Although a mammogram assessment category of "probably benign" is not recommended for use in interpreting screening mammograms, it is associated with up to 11% of screening mammograms and accounts for over 40%-50% of abnormal screening mammograms. A mammogram assessment category of "probably benign" is coupled with a recommendation for short-interval follow-up

(typically 6 months), resulting in economic and emotional consequences for the women that receive them.\*

\*The following clinical recommendation statements are quoted verbatim from the referenced clinical guidelines and represent the evidence base for the measure:

Do not use Category 3 in interpreting screening examinations. (American College of Radiology [ACR])

All the published studies emphasize the need to conduct a complete diagnostic imaging evaluation before making a probably benign (Category 3) assessment; hence it is inadvisable to render such an assessment when interpreting a screening examination. (ACR)

The use of Category 3, probably benign, is reserved for findings that are almost certainly benign. It must be emphasized that this is NOT an indeterminate category for malignancy, but one that, for mammography, has a less than 2% chance of malignancy (i.e., is almost certainly benign). (ACR)

Such findings are generally identified on baseline screening or on screening for which previous examinations are unavailable for comparison. Immediate evaluation with additional mammographic views and/or ultrasound is required to render a Category 3, probably benign assessment. (ACR)

## **PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT**

Screening mammography; "probably benign" assessment category

## **DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION**

All final reports for screening mammograms

## **NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION**

Final reports classified as "probably benign" (see the related "Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

## **Evidence Supporting the Measure**

### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY**

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

## **Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure**

### **NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Use of this measure to improve performance

### **EVIDENCE SUPPORTING NEED FOR THE MEASURE**

Yasmeen S, Romano PS, Pettinger M, Chlebowski RT, Robbins JA, Lane DS, Hendrix SL. Frequency and predictive value of a mammographic recommendation for short-interval follow-up. J Natl Cancer Inst 2003 Mar 19;95(6):429-36. [PubMed](#)

## State of Use of the Measure

### STATE OF USE

Current routine use

### CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement

## Application of Measure in its Current Use

### CARE SETTING

Ambulatory Care  
Ancillary Services  
Hospitals  
Physician Group Practices/Clinics

### PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Physicians

### LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Individual Clinicians

### TARGET POPULATION AGE

All patients, regardless of age

### TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

### STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

## Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

### INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Unspecified

### ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

**BURDEN OF ILLNESS**

Unspecified

**UTILIZATION**

Unspecified

**COSTS**

Unspecified

**Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories****IOM CARE NEED**

Staying Healthy

**IOM DOMAIN**

Effectiveness

**Data Collection for the Measure****CASE FINDING**

Users of care only

**DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING**

All final reports for screening mammograms

**DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME**

Patients associated with provider

**DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS****Inclusions**

All final reports for screening mammograms

**Exclusions**

None

**RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR**

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

**DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT**

Diagnostic Evaluation  
Encounter

**DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW**

Time window is a single point in time

**NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS****Inclusions**

Final reports classified as "probably benign"

Definition of "probably benign" classification: Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) assessment category of "probably benign"; Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS®) category 3; or FDA-approved equivalent assessment category.

**Exclusions**

None

**MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS**

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

**NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW**

Encounter or point in time

**DATA SOURCE**

Administrative data  
Medical record

**LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY**

Individual Case

**PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED**

Unspecified

**Computation of the Measure****SCORING**

Rate

**INTERPRETATION OF SCORE**

Better quality is associated with a lower score

**ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS**

Unspecified

**STANDARD OF COMPARISON**

Internal time comparison

**Evaluation of Measure Properties****EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING**

Unspecified

**Identifying Information****ORIGINAL TITLE**

Measure #3: inappropriate use of "probably benign" assessment category in mammography screening.

**MEASURE COLLECTION**

[The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Measurement Sets](#)

**MEASURE SET NAME**

[Radiology Physician Performance Measurement Set](#)

**SUBMITTER**

American Medical Association on behalf of the American College of Radiology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, and National Committee for Quality Assurance

**DEVELOPER**

American College of Radiology  
National Committee for Quality Assurance  
Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

**FUNDING SOURCE(S)**

Unspecified

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## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Conflicts, if any, are disclosed in accordance with the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® conflict of interest policy.

## **ENDORSER**

National Quality Forum

## **INCLUDED IN**

Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance  
Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

## **ADAPTATION**

Measure was not adapted from another source.

## **RELEASE DATE**

2007 Oct

## **REVISION DATE**

2009 Feb

## **MEASURE STATUS**

This is the current release of the measure.

This measure updates a previous version: American College of Radiology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, National Committee for Quality Assurance. Radiology physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association, National Committee for Quality Assurance; 2007 Oct. 42 p.

## **SOURCE(S)**

American College of Radiology, Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®, National Committee for Quality Assurance. Radiology physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association, National Committee for Quality Assurance; 2009 Feb. 42 p.

## **MEASURE AVAILABILITY**

The individual measure, "Measure #3: Inappropriate Use of "Probably Benign" Assessment Category in Mammography Screening," is published in the "Radiology Physician Performance Measurement Set." This document and technical specifications are available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Web site: [www.physicianconsortium.org](http://www.physicianconsortium.org).

For further information, please contact AMA staff by e-mail at [cqi@ama-assn.org](mailto:cqi@ama-assn.org).

## **NQMC STATUS**

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on February 1, 2008. The information was verified by the measure developer on April 10, 2008. This NQMC summary was updated by ECRI Institute on April 23, 2009. The information was verified by the measure developer on September 16, 2009.

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